
Introduced by Senators Simitian and Liu

(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members De Leon and Portantino)

March 23, 2010

Senate Joint Resolution No. 26—Relative to the Armenian Genocide.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SJR 26, as introduced, Simitian. Armenian Genocide: Day of Remembrance.

This measure would designate April 24, 2010, as “California Day of Remembrance for the Armenian Genocide of 1915–1923.” It would memorialize the Congress and the President of the United States to act likewise to commemorate the Armenian Genocide.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, One and one-half million men, women, and
2 children of Armenian descent were victims of the brutal genocide
3 perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923, inclusive;
4 and
5 WHEREAS, The Armenian Genocide and massacre of the
6 Armenian people have been recognized as an attempt to eliminate
7 all traces of a thriving and noble civilization over 3,000 years old;
8 and
9 WHEREAS, To this day, revisionists, including the Republic
10 of Turkey, still deny the existence of these horrific events; and
11 WHEREAS, By consistently remembering and openly
12 condemning the atrocities committed against the Armenians,
13 California residents demonstrate their sensitivity to a need for
14 constant vigilance to prevent similar atrocities in the future; and

1 WHEREAS, Recognition of the 95th anniversary of this
2 genocide is crucial to preventing the repetition of future genocides
3 and educating people about the atrocities connected to these tragic
4 events; and

5 WHEREAS, On this 95th anniversary of the Armenian
6 Genocide, it is also appropriate to remember, honor, and thank
7 those righteous ethnic Turks and Kurds who, often at risk to their
8 own lives, lent aid, comfort, and assistance to ethnic Armenians
9 seeking to escape the genocide; and

10 WHEREAS, Armenia is now a free and independent republic,
11 having embraced democracy following the dissolution of the Soviet
12 Union; and

13 WHEREAS, California is home to the largest population of
14 Armenians in the United States, and those citizens have enriched
15 our state through leadership in business, agriculture, academia,
16 medicine, government, and the arts, and they are proud and
17 patriotic practitioners of American citizenship; now, therefore, be
18 it

19 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
20 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature of the State of California
21 hereby designates April 24, 2010, as the “California Day of
22 Remembrance for the Armenian Genocide of 1915–1923”; and be
23 it further

24 *Resolved*, That the State of California respectfully memorializes
25 the Congress of the United States to act likewise to commemorate
26 the Armenian Genocide; and be it further

27 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
28 this resolution to the President of the United States, Members of
29 the United States Congress, the Governor, and Armenian churches
30 and commemorative organizations in California.